

MAJOR ECONOMIC COMMITMENTS OF BREVARD AND TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY

The Economic Base:

The economic base of a community consists of those activities which provide the basic employment and income on which the rest of the local economy depends. The role of any firm or whole area in growth trends of that area must be understood in terms of growth patterns in the respective activities on the national level. Any local firm must respond to the technology and product demand within its own respective national industry. Therefore, the basis for evaluation of a local type of industry is the national trend in the respective industry, rather than the trends in specific local firms.

In this section, the major economic commitments of the County will be identified and discussed briefly. Second, trends in the local labor force will be discussed and projected into the future. Local and national trends of the past decade will be analyzed, and national industry growth rates will be applied to local industry to derive an additional ten-year employment projection for the County.

In What Economic Activities Does Transylvania County Specialize?

A comparison of 1960 County employment distributions with those for the nation shows that Transylvania has higher concentrations of employees in these industries (in order): PAPER, CHEMICALS, TEXTILES, and LUMBER. In all these, the County was 'overrepresented' by more than 30% relative to the nation. The only other activities which exceeded national proportions were private household work, construction, and education. The major specializations are considered 'basic' industries in that they are activities based on production of goods for an export (non-local) market.